

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union

1. The European Union reiterates its strong condemnation of the oppression and the violence used by the Syrian government against its own civilians. The Syrian government has consistently violated the rights of its citizens to peaceful demonstration, which has recently culminated in an especially brutal attack resulting in the death of over 200 civilians and the wounding of thousands more on May 27th 2011 alone. The European Union has already condemned the violence against the civilian population, called for restraint on behalf of the security services, and the established sanctions consisting of an arms embargo, travel bans and asset freezes against the Syrian leadership.
2. These acts of repression have triggered the resignation of numerous members of the ruling Ba'ath Party, the Syrian diplomatic corps, and the Syrian military. This indicates that the Assad regime has lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the Syrian people and can no longer be considered the legitimate representative government.
3. The European Union will expand upon the sanctions on officials in the Syrian government, targeting national assets tied to the regime.
4. Funding associated with the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights will continue, as it directly is used by representatives of NGOs and democratic opposition. The EU will use this and other instruments to develop civil society, strengthen democratic institutions, and promote reform.
5. The European Union Member States that are also members of the United Nations Security Council will promote the common European position adopted today asking for the implementation of restrictive measures at the UN level to match those already applied at the EU level. They will also continue to demand the dispatch of a UN investigative team to observe the human rights situation and possible human rights violations on the ground in Syria.
6. The European Union will appoint a Special Representative to Syria and create a dedicated working group within the EEAS in order to monitor the crisis and work to create a road map to democracy. This Special Representative will work closely with other international partners, such as the Arab League, and the United Nations, and other international forums such as the Union for the Mediterranean. This will be in conjunction with other countries in the region and Syrian civil society in order to help establish a lasting and deep democracy.
7. In conjunction with the European Union's special representation to Syria, the European Union has decided to launch a civilian mission to Syria in support of the development of democratic institutions, modeled on EULEX Kosovo, and in coordination with and

preferably in partnership with the Arab League. Such a mission would be contingent upon signs of authentic democratic reform within the Syrian state.

8. The European Union will resume the ratification process for the association agreement and funding currently suspended with Syria upon the successful transition to a democratic regime, with additional funding to aid with the transition to and subsequent consolidation of democratic governance. The European Union will also encourage the European Investment Bank to approve new financing opportunities in Syria.
9. The European Union will launch an urgent support mission to support European Union border efforts modeled on the current Operation Hermes to cope with the humanitarian situation resulting from the influx of refugees from Syria.
10. The Commission has agreed following a request by the Council to submit a proposal based on Council Directive 2001/55/EC to establish a temporary protection mechanism for refugees. This mechanism will apply to all Syrian refugees who are able to present a valid Syrian identity. Upon approval by the Council, the mechanism will be in force for one year. In order to fund the mechanism, €3 million will be drawn from the European Refugee Fund and €15 million from the ECHO reserve fund, distributed proportionately. As the crisis unfolds, there will be the possibility for more funding from both of these sources. Implementation of this mechanism would call upon all member states to show the political will to act in a state of solidarity to work together. Already, member states such as Poland, Romania, and Portugal have shown a willingness to work together to this end.